

SYMBOLIC SENSATIONS

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be stimulated and directed by sensory impressions, not only of things, but of symbols of things. Such are words, whether spoken or written. The word "sea" is a symbol: to one who had never seen water it would mean and could mean nothing. But, associated in the memory with a large expanse of water, it calls up this idea when seen or heard*.

By our sensory equipment of nerves and nerve-cells we receive impressions not only of things that are outside us but of the movements and condition of our own bodily organs. If we lift an arm we have an impression of its movement which is as clear as any impression that we derive from touch. We have, moreover, an impression of the amount of force exerted by us in, for instance, lifting a weight: we remember this impression, and associate it with objects of similar size. We are, accordingly, much surprised if an object, which appears from its size to be heavy, proves to be light when we essay to move it. We also have some impressions of the condition of our internal organs: they may be associated with very definite feelings of pleasure or pain, but are ordinarily vague and uninformative. A man has but a very indistinct idea of the hidden processes upon which his life depends. In fine, by our nervous organisation we receive sensory impressions of things that are

outside us.
of symbols of these things (the most
important of
which are words. heard or read). and of
the movements of our own bodies ; and, in some
mysterious fashion. we are also aware of
mental occurrences—of memories and thoughts—
which have
been generated by sensory
impressions of the
past.